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ABSTRACT

Questionnaires were sent to the graduate deans of the 316 member institutions of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States to determine the status of the Doctor of Arts Degree. Questionnaires were also sent to the graduate deans of 34 nonmember institutions offering graduate programs beyond the master's degree. Results of the survey indicate: (1) The Doctor of Arts degree has gained and continues to gain momentum with little, if any, financial support from the federal government. (2) The Doctor of Arts degree would be offered by more institutions if more state commissions for higher education would discontinue moratoriums on new doctoral programs. (3) Proportionately more graduates of D.A. degree programs are being placed than Ph.D. degree graduates, and D.A. graduates are proven to be successful college teachers. (4) Approximately 1,500-2,000 students have been admitted to D.A. degree programs. (5) The Doctor of Arts degree has caused a number of institutions to revise Ph.D. degree programs to include some features of the D.A. degree. Additional conclusions are included. (MJM)

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STATUSOF THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Robert H. Koenker (a)

January 21, 1975

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HE 006 130

STATUS OF THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Robert H. Koenker (a)

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In March, 1970; November, 1971; November, 1972; and in January, 1974, the writer conducted nationwide surveys of the status of the Doctor of Arts degree. In order to update those four previous studies, questionnaires were sent to the graduate deans of the 316 member institutions of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States during the first week of November, 1974.(b) In addition, questionnaires were sent to the graduate deans of 34 non-member institutions offering graduate programs beyond the Master's degree. During the last week of November, 1974, and the fourth week of December, 1974, follow-up questionnaires were sent to the graduate deans of those institutions which had not responded. This study is based on responses from 322 of the 350 graduate deans which represents a 92% return. Twenty-eight of the 350 institutions had failed to respond to the questionnaire as of January 17, 1975. Twenty-two of these 28 institutions which did not respond offer doctoral programs according to the "Report of Credit Given by Educational Institutions," American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers, 1974. The questionnaires were answered by the graduate dean, the acting graduate dean, or by an associate or assistant graduate dean. Their opinions do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of their institutions.

The following table gives the number of institutions offering, planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the Doctor of Arts degree; and also the number of institutions offering doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree for all five studies.

NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OFFERING, PLANNING TO OFFER, OR CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE; AND THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OFFERING DOCTORAL PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

(In quoting from the table the author requests that the two paragraphs following the table also be quoted.)

Year and Month of Study(c)	Offer the D.A. Degree	Planning to Offer the D.A. Degree	Considering the Possibility of Offering the D.A. Degree	Offering Doctoral Program Similar to the D.A. Degree(d)	Total
March, 1970	3	27	46	12	88
November, 1971	16	11	60	52	139
November, 1972	20	7	33	48	108
January, 1974	22	3	23	47(e)	145(f)
January, 1975	23	6	20	48(g)	133(h)

(c) Based on returned questionnaires as follows: 1970, 267/300; 1971, 272/300; 1972, 293/311; 1974, 300/317; and 1975, 322/350

(d) Includes 6 institutions which offer the D.A. degree or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree

(e) In addition, 50 other institutions stated that they did not offer doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree, but reported that sufficient flexibility existed so that a Doctor of Arts degree type program could be offered under an existing Doctor's degree. (Includes 11 institutions which offer, are planning to offer, or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree.)

(f) Includes 50 institutions mentioned in footnote (e) above

(g) In addition, 36 other institutions stated that they did not offer doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree, but reported that sufficient flexibility existed so that a Doctor of Arts degree type program could be offered under an existing Doctor's degree. (Includes 5 institutions which are planning to offer, or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree.)

(h) Includes the 36 institutions mentioned in footnote (g) above.

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(b) Member institutions of the CGS as of June 1, 1974. The highest degrees awarded by those 316 institutions were as follows: Doctor's, 226; Specialist, 17; and Master's, 73. The 34 non-member CGS institutions granted highest degrees as follows: Doctor's, 28; Specialist, 6; and Master's, 0.

The number of institutions offering, planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the Doctor of Arts degree has remained about the same in the last three years. In addition, the number of institutions offering doctoral programs which they consider similar to the Doctor of Arts degree has also remained approximately the same in the last three years. In the current study, 36 institutions as compared to 50 in last year's study, reported that there was sufficient flexibility in existing doctoral programs so that a department could offer a D.A. degree type program if they so desired.

It continues to be the author's opinion, derived mainly from comments made by the respondents, that more institutions would initiate Doctor of Arts degree programs, but the following factors have limited its development: the restrictions placed by state commissions of higher education on the introduction of new doctoral programs, the oversupply of doctoral graduates, the financial problems which face a number of institutions of higher education, a lack of understanding of the purpose and functions of the D.A. degree, the relatively large number of institutions which now offer what they consider Doctor of Arts degree type programs under existing doctoral programs, and a number of additional institutions reported that there is sufficient flexibility in existing doctoral programs so that a D.A. degree type program could be offered.

In answer to the question - "Does your institution now offer the Doctor of Arts degree? ____yes, ____no. If yes, name the major field(s) of study and the year the program was instituted." --it was found that 23 institutions are currently offering the Doctor of Arts degree as follows: (These institutions were also asked to name any new majors which were being planned.)

1. Ball State University - music (1971), health science (1975), planning programs in science, social science, and possibly English
2. Brown University - creative writing (1971)
3. Carnegie-Mellon University - mathematics (1967), English (1967), history (1967), fine arts: music, painting, sculpture (1967), chemistry (1972)
4. Catholic University of America - English (1971), medical technology (1972), Spanish (1973), history (1974), library science (?), drama (?)
5. Claremont Graduate School - botany (1973), French (1971), government (1971)
6. Drake University - English (1972)
7. Idaho State University - English (1971), biology (1971), mathematics (1971), government (1971)
8. Illinois State University - mathematics (1974), history (1974), economics (1975), English (?)
9. Lehigh University - economics (1971), government (1971), psychology (1971), chemistry (1975)
10. Middle Tennessee State University - English (1970), history (1970), physical education (1970), planning to add psychology (1975)
11. Ohio State University - Slavic languages & literature (1971), economics (1972)
12. State University of New York at Albany - English (1971), economics (1972), public affairs (?)
13. Syracuse University - English (1971)
14. University of Illinois at Chicago Circle - chemistry (1973), mathematics (1973), physics (1974), biology (?)
15. University of Miami (Florida) - economics (1974), English (1973), history (1973), international studies (1973), inter-American studies (1973), physics (1973), chemistry (1973), mathematics (1973), foreign languages (1973), education (1973), civil and mechanical engineering (1973)
16. University of Michigan - English (1971)
17. University of Mississippi - music (1970), English (1971), political science (1971), chemistry (1973)
18. University of North Dakota - biology (1970), history (1970)
19. University of Northern Colorado - biological science (1970), geography (1970), mathematics (1970), chemistry (1970), history (1970), music (1974)

20. University of Oregon - English (1969)
21. University of the Pacific - English (1970)
22. University of Washington - German (1970), chemistry (1973), physics (1973), planning to add new major(s)
23. Washington State University - mathematics (1974-75), chemistry (1974-75)

All but 3 of the 23 institutions offering the Doctor of Arts degree had previous experience in offering doctoral programs before initiating the D.A. degree. The three institutions without previous experience in offering the Doctor's degree were granted accreditation for offering the D.A. degree by the appropriate regional accrediting agency prior to initiating the degree.

Fifteen of the 23 institutions offering the D.A. degree had granted a total of 295 D.A. degrees as of November or December, 1974. The other eight institutions had not granted any D.A. degrees as of these dates. A question should have been included on the questionnaire relative to the placement of D.A. degree graduates. Such a question will be included in next year's study. The author is of the opinion, as a result of conversations with the graduate deans of D.A. degree granting institutions, that all or nearly all of the graduates accepted positions on graduation or returned to previous positions.

In answer to the question - "Are you definitely planning on offering the Doctor of Arts degree at a future date? ____yes, ____no. If yes, name the major field(s) of study and the year the program(s) will be established." --it was found that six institutions were planning to offer the D.A. degree as follows:

1. Appalachian State University - behavorial sciences (?), humanities (?), mathematics (?), social sciences (?)
2. Eastern Michigan University - communication arts (English and speech-dramatic arts) (1976)
3. Northern Illinois University - (?)
4. Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville) - business (?), physical sciences (physics) (?)
5. Utah State University - history and mathematics (proposed by not yet approved)
6. Western Illinois University - biology (?), geography (?)

In answer to the question - "Are you currently considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree in the future? ____yes, ____no." --it was found that the following 20 institutions were currently considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree:

1. Andrews University - "maybe"
2. Atlanta University - chemistry, English
3. Brandeis University
4. Central Michigan University - psychology (1977), educational administration (1979), vocational education (1979)
5. Clark University - historical curators
6. Creighton University
7. Indiana State University - history
8. Morgan State College - "Considering in a very general way"
9. Northeastern Illinois University - "No doctoral programs offered at present."
10. St. John's University (New York) - history
11. Stephen F. Austin State University
12. University of Alabama - mathematics (?)
13. University of Denver - mathematics (?)
14. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - chemistry, economics
15. University of Maryland, College Park - elementary education (reading)
16. University of New Orleans (formerly LSUNO) - drama and communications (1976)
17. University of Northern Iowa
18. University of Scranton
19. University of Southern Carolina - romance languages (1976)
20. University of Texas at Dallas - humanities

In answer to the question - "Does your institution currently offer doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree for preparing college teachers in subject fields? ____yes, ____no. If yes, please explain, name field(s) of study and title of Doctor's degree." --it was found that 48 were offering doctoral programs which they considered were similar to the D.A. degree as follows:

PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE OFFERED BY FORTY-EIGHT INSTITUTIONS(i)

Program	Frequency	Program	Frequency
Ph.D.	18	Ed.D. and M.A.T.	1
Ed.D.	17	D.M.L.	1
Ph.D. and Ed.D.	6	M.A. in Pedagogy	1
Ph.D., Ed.D., & Ed.S.	1	Doctorate not specified	3
		Total	48(j)

(i) Includes 11 institutions which offer, are planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree.

(j) Several of these programs while considered by the institution as being similar to the D.A. degree are sub-doctoral programs.

Forty-eight institutions offer graduate programs, usually Ph.D. and/or Ed.D. degree programs, which they consider similar to the D.A. degree. Again, it is significant to note in this study that the majority of these institutions were of the opinion that a supervised college teaching experience and/or a course in college teaching makes the Ph.D. and/or Ed.D. degrees similar to the D.A. degree. As in last year's study, it was also significant to note that rarely was any mention made of how these similar doctoral programs called for greater breadth of preparation, a professional education core, a teaching externship in a two-year or four-year college, a dissertation related to the teaching of the subject, the inclusion of an interest in and potential for college teaching as part of the admission requirements, or any of the several basic differences between the D.A. degree and other types of doctoral programs.

Several institutions reported that they had changed existing Ph.D. degree programs to provide separate tracks -- one track for those preparing for college teaching and another track for those interested mainly in research. While this might be considered a desirable practice by some, it tends to confuse the basic differences between the Ph.D. and D.A. degrees. Several other institutions stated that existing Ed.D. degree programs had been changed to provide a track for those working towards professional positions in education. e.g., the superintendency, guidance and counseling, and the like, and another track for preparing college teachers in subject fields. This changes the basic purpose of the Ed.D. degree.

In last year's study the writer included the distinctions between the Doctor's degrees and they are included again in the present study. The Council of Graduate Schools in the United States has made the following statement relative to the D.A., Ed.D., and Ph.D. degrees:

> "The degree Doctor of Arts identifies a person with at least three years of graduate study and is designed to prepare students for careers as college teachers.
>
> The program leading to the Doctor of Arts degree will parallel other doctoral programs but will be oriented toward developing teaching competence in a broad subject matter area. In contrast, the Doctor of Philosophy program is designed to prepare a graduate student for a lifetime of creative activity and research, although it will often be in association with a career in teaching at a university or college. The degree Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) should mark a professionally oriented program at the doctoral level in the field of education.

The Doctor of Arts program should be offered only by institutions with faculty, facilities, and equipment adequate to provide for the offering of these practice-oriented Doctor of Arts programs; they must be comparable in quality, although different in character, to accepted research-oriented Ph.D. programs.

Admission, retention, and degree standards for a Doctor of Arts program should be as rigorous as those prevailing for a Ph.D. program and should be under the control of the graduate faculty of the subject-matter field. Under no circumstances should the Doctor of Arts be utilized as a consolation prize or second class, attenuated Ph.D. While program requirements will inevitably differ because of different objectives, requirements for the Doctor of Arts should be no less demanding. If it is awarded at the completion of a program equal in quality and rigor to the Ph.D., its recipients should be employed in their areas of competence on a comparable basis to those holding the Ph.D. The standards and reputation of the graduate school awarding the degree are the significant determinants."

--The Doctor of Arts Degree--A Statement by the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States, March, 1970. pp. 6-7.

In answer to the question - "If your institution does not offer the D.A. degree or a program similar to the D.A. degree, is there sufficient flexibility in existing doctoral programs so that a department could offer at some future date a D.A. degree type program under an existing Doctor's degree? ____yes,____no. If yes, please explain." --it was found that such flexibility existed at 36 institutions as follows:

INSTITUTIONS REPORTING THAT SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY EXISTED SO THAT A DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM COULD BE OFFERED UNDER AN EXISTING DOCTOR'S DEGREE

Degree Program	Frequency	Degree Program	Frequency
Ph.D.	3	Ed.D.	1
Ph.D. and Ed.D.	2	Doctorate not specified	30
		Total	36(k)

(k) Does not include those institutions which offer the D.A. degree or a Doctor's program similar to the D.A. degree

In addition to the 48 institutions which reported offering doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree, an additional 36 institutions reported that there was sufficient flexibility so that a department(s) could offer at some future date a D.A. degree type program under an existing Doctor's degree. Therefore, 84 institutions offer or could offer doctoral programs similar to the D.A. degree under an existing Doctor's degree.

In answer to the question - "Do you consider it an acceptable practice to offer a D.A. degree type program under the degree labels of the Ph.D. or Ed.D. degrees? ____yes, ____no. Comments." --the results were as follows:

ACCEPTABILITY OF OFFERING A DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM
UNDER THE DEGREE LABELS OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY OR DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Institutional Classification	Acceptability of Offering D.A. Degree Under Ph.D. or Ed.D. Labels			
	Yes	No	No Response or Uncertain	Total
Now Offer the D.A. Degree	4	18	1	23
Planning to Offer the D.A. Degree	0	5	1	6
Considering Offering the D.A. Degree	5	14	1	20
Offering Doctorate Similar to D.A. Degree	23	13	1	37(l)
Have Flexibility to Offer D.A. Degree	13	16	2	31(m)
Other Institutions	20	133	52	205
Total	65	199	58(n)	322

(l) Does not include the 11 institutions which offer, are planning to offer, or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree
(m) Does not include the 5 institutions which are planning to offer or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree
(n) Five of the 58 institutions stated it was acceptable to offer a D.A. degree type program under the label of the Ed.D. degree

One hundred ninety-nine or 62% of the 322 institutions reported that it was not an acceptable practice to offer a D.A. degree type program under the labels of the Ph.D. or Ed.D. degrees. Sixty-five or 20% thought it would be an acceptable practice and 58 or 18% gave no response or were uncertain about such a practice.

The responses to the question on the acceptability of offering a D.A. degree type program under the labels of the Ph.D. or Ed.D. degrees was approximately the same as in last year's study. It is unfortunate that 65 or 20% of the 322 graduate deans responding to the questionnaire were not concerned with granting a Doctor's degree to a student when the degree title was not consistent with the basic objectives of the degree which was earned.

In answer to the question - "What is your general assessment of the Doctor of Arts Degree?" —the results were as follows:

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE
BY THE 322 INSTITUTIONS RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Response	Offer D.A. Degree	Planning to Offer D.A. Degree	Considering Offering D.A. Degree	Offering Doctor's Similar to D.A.	Have Flexibility To Offer D.A. Type Program	Other Institutions	Total
Very Favorable	14	4	3	2	-	11	34
Favorable	5	1	6	8	6	39	65
Neutral or No Opinion	2	1	4	2	2	7	18
Unfavorable	-	-	2	4	5	29	40
Very Unfavorable	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Not Needed	2	-	3	16	9	32	62
Uncertain or No Basis for Judgement	-	-	-	1	4	15	20
No Response or Not Applicable to this Institution	-	-	2	4	5	70	81
Totals	23	6	20	37(o)	31(p)	205	322

(o) Does not include the 11 institutions which offer, are planning to offer, or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree
(p) Does not include the 5 institutions which are planning to offer or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree

The 49 institutions which offer, are planning to offer, or are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree generally assess the D.A. degree in a favorable or a very favorable light. The 37 institutions which offer doctoral programs similar to the D.A. degree and the 31 institutions which do not offer doctoral programs similar to the D.A. degree but report sufficient flexibility exists at their institution to offer D.A. degree type programs assessed the D.A. in a less favorable manner or stated that there was no need for the D.A. degree. The remaining 205 institutions reacted more favorably towards the D.A. degree than did the 68 institutions which offer programs similar to the D.A. or have the flexibility to offer such programs.

If the 119 institutions that reported a neutral or no opinion assessment of the D.A., or were uncertain or had no basis for judging the D.A., or did not respond to the question calling for an assessment of the D.A. were eliminated; the responses for the remaining 203 institutions would be as follows: 99 or 49% assessed the D.A. in a favorable or very favorable light, 40 or 20% in an unfavorable manner, 2 or 1% in a very unfavorable manner, and 62 or 31% were of the opinion that the D.A. was not needed --the main reasons being that there was a surplus of doctorates and that this was no time to introduce a new doctorate.

A comparison of the 1974 study with the present study (1975) shows that the overall assessment of the D.A. degree has improved. For example, using the same type data for the 1974 and 1975 studies as used in the foregoing paragraph, the comparative data are as follows: assessed the D.A. degree in a favorable or very favorable manner in 1974, 37% and in 1975, 49%.

After conducting five annual nationwide surveys of the status of the Doctor of Arts degree, after talking with a large number of graduate deans including nearly all of those representing institutions offering the D.A. degree, and after talking with several employers of D.A. degree graduates, the author has reached the following general conclusions relative to the D.A. Degree:

(1) The Doctor of Arts degree has gained and continues to gain momentum with little, if any, financial support from the federal government.
(2) The Doctor of Arts degree would be offered by more institutions if more state commissions for higher education would discontinue the moratorium on new doctoral programs.
(3) Proportionately more graduates of D.A. degree programs are being placed than Ph.D. degree graduates, and D.A. graduates are proving to be successful college teachers.
(4) Approximately 1500-2000 students have been admitted to D.A. degree programs. D.A. degree candidates are older and more mature than Ph.D. degree candidates. In addition, the majority of D.A. degree candidates have had previous teaching experience at the high school and/or college levels and are committed to teaching.
(5) The Doctor of Arts degree has caused a number of institutions to revise Ph.D. degree programs to include some of the features of the D.A. degree.
(6) More institutions will need to offer the D.A. degree to prepare the "teacher-scholars" which are needed by two-year and four-year colleges. It has been predicted that by the late 1970's approximately 50% of all college students will be enrolled in two-year colleges. The traditional research-oriented Ph.D. degree is not designed for preparing such college teachers.

(The author grants permission to anyone who would like to reproduce this study.)